

Talk with ADE

Friday September 29, 2006
Balsz Elementary District Board Room
10:00 AM

- Welcome by Joanne Phillips
- Joanne started the discussion with HB 2676 that went into effect September 21, 2006.
 - This law was intended for parent choice
 - Modeled after a Florida program that was ruled unconstitutional except for the Special Education component
 - A dissatisfied parent may apply:
 - 1) To enroll their child in another school within the district
 - 2) To enroll their child in an adjacent school district
 - 3) For a scholarship for their child to attend a private school
 - * This does not pertain to home schools
 - * For children entering Kindergarten this year, they must have been in a preschool program for children with disabilities.
 - * Related to numbers one and two above, the district must be able to implement the IEP and not be at capacity. If the school is unable to implement the IEP and/or they are at capacity they can deny the student.
 - * A scholarship student can “bump” a student who was placed on the open enrollment waiting list.
 - The parent must provide a sixty day notice to the school district and/or the Department of Education.
 - Once a scholarship is granted for a private school or an adjacent district the “home” school district no longer has responsibility for that student.
 - For a student to qualify they must have attended the entire previous year in public school, meaning all 180 days. If they enrolled one day after the start of school they will not qualify this year. The student must also be enrolled at the time of application.
 - Transportation for scholarship students
 - * Once a child is on a scholarship and attending a private school the district no longer has responsibility, parent must transport. If it is specialized transportation, then it falls under proportionate share for the district in which the private school is located.
 - * If the student is enrolling within the district then open enrollment policies take effect
 - The check will be issued to the parent and mailed to the private school. The parent who must sign the check over to the private school.
 - The funding for this year is capped at \$2.5 million. The scholarship will follow the student through graduation as long as the scholarship exists.

- The scholarship amount will be the lesser of
 - 1) Actual base funding
 - 2) Actual tuition and fees or actual per pupil costs, whichever is greater
- Private schools will be given a CTDS number and will be required to report attendance quarterly in SAIS. This will be verified and the check will be sent accordingly.
- If a student has been expelled or suspended, the school/district does not have to accept the student.
- The student must still comply with the rules and are subject to expulsion or suspension if they do not comply.
- If a child no longer qualifies for a disability the only way to pick that up is through proportionate share.

➤ MIPS

- Joanne hopes to have the MIPS parent consent form, which takes effect October 13th, out on the listserv Monday.
- ED category must have a medical diagnosis. Joanne suggested using the OHI medical certificate as a model to create one for ED and send it to the child's licensed physician or psychologist.
- You can only claim the actual time the aide spent with the child. For example, if an aide works with two students for 30 minutes then you can claim 15 minutes on each student's claim.
- The aides must keep a log of time spent working on specific goals.
- On an IEP under supplemental aids you can put, for example, three hours for diapering, feeding, reinforcing SLP, OT goals, etc. This must match the amount of time submitted on the claim.

➤ Manifestation

- If the parents do not show up for the meeting and you have provided sufficient notice you may continue.

➤ New Regulations

- The IEP team and parent can determine if a re-evaluation is necessary without review of existing data
- The parent can choose to excuse a member of the team in writing before the meeting.
- Must continue to have annual IEP meetings
- Must not have less than one general education and special education teacher
- The department is going to start making designations that a district is "doing OK". Judgment is not restricted to compliance. We are unsure yet if we are required to publicly report individual indicators. The four designation areas are
 - 1) No assistance or intervention needed
 - 2) Needs assistance
 - 3) Needs intervention
 - 4) Needs substantial intervention

➤ Speech Therapy Services

- If the IEP states 60 minutes of speech therapy, then the SLP is responsible for the services. The aides are to reinforce the goals but do not provide therapy. A Master's level SLP can supervise two full time SLPA's or three part time SLPA's.
- Starting January 1, 2007, SLP's will no longer need the SEI endorsement or AZ and US Constitution. SLP's with a Master's degree will be grandfathered in and receive a professional SLP certificate. SLP's with a Bachelor's degree will be grandfathered in for a professional certificate and their title will change to Speech and Language Technician. New SLT's with a Bachelor's degree will need 100 hours of clinical practice and will need to take the Arizona Speech and Language Proficiency Exam. New SLP's with a Master's degree will be done as long as they have their CCC's and/or passed the Praxis.
- Joanne will resend the SLP info out on the listserv

➤ Highly Qualified

- Housse rubric is still in effect for special education when determining additional areas of highly qualified.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday November 17, 2006.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.